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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Special Assistant, Intelligence, Proposes the Following Changes:

(35-39)

Page 2, Para 4:

"4. In the near future, the new Soviet leadership will almost certainly attempt to follow the foreign and domestic policies established during recent years. It will probably continue to emphasize unremitting hostility to the West (including the tactic of splitting the West), the enlargement of the Bloc economic base, and the increase of Bloc military power."

Page 3, Para 5:

"5. The death of Stalin removes an autocrat who, while ruthless and determined to spread Soviet power, did not allow his ambitions to lead him into reckless courses of action on his foreign policy. It would be unsafe to assume that the new Soviet regime will have Stalin's skill in avoiding general war. At least initially, the regime will also lack his freedom of action and his ability to maneuver, since it will not possess Stalin's immense prestige and authority. Specifically, in foreign policy, the new regime will probably find it more difficult to abandon positions than did Stalin and might feel itself compelled to react more strongly ~~to what it~~ regarded as if ~~unilateral~~ moves of the West confronted it with the need for major decisions. Conversely, in the near future the new leadership will probably exercise caution in taking action which it thought would force the West to make comparable decisions. If the West should suggest re-examination of the principal issues which have divided East and West, the new Soviet Government would probably adhere to established Soviet positions."

accepted

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